



Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network

PRESS RELEASE

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The Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (WHADN) Endorses the IOM 'Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese' (RQS) Programme

Washington DC, July 25, 2008 . The Secretariat of the Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network, (WHADN), today endorses the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) program, an effort by the IOM to facilitate the participation of professional Sudanese in the United States in the affairs of the war torn nation, and has promised to promote it among its member organizations. 'This program is timely and will provide the capacity building and technical assistance desperately needed in South Sudan and other regions for development,' said Fred Oladeinde, President of WHADN.

The Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) Programme assists qualified Sudanese to return home to be employed where their skills and knowledge are needed for the development of Sudan. The program is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Sudan in partnership with the Government of National Unity and the Government of South Sudan, local organizations, and international agencies.

IOM (www.iom.int) is the leading international organization working in migration management. IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM has been working in Sudan since 2000. WHADN (www.whadn.org) is a network of African Diaspora organizations. The network was established in 2002 with over one hundred members; the network member organizations work through programs, remittances, and technical assistance support development in Africa.

Sudanese who want to apply to RQS as candidates for employment must complete an application form and submit the application with copies of their education and training certificates, curriculum vitae and other supporting documentation to IOM office in

Washington D.C. RQS maintains a current databank of available candidates and matches candidates' qualifications with employers' requirements.

RQS assists candidates who have been placed in jobs to meet their essential needs for returning home by providing a reintegration package tailored to the returnee's circumstances. This can include transport to place of origin for the candidate and immediate family, shipment of household goods, and other reintegration assistance.

"We need to see more Sudanese in the Diaspora back in Sudan working from within to bring peace and stability and help to provide badly needed professional services to the general population," said Ezozo Agrippa, President of the African Diaspora Foundation (ADF), a member of WHADN.

For more information on RQS, contact Frantz S. Celestin, IOM Washington D.C. Office on 202-862-1826, fcelestin@iom.int.

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